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THE TREATMENT OF THORACIC ANEURISM.

Prof. Sée of Paris has recently given an account of the result of the treatment of twenty-four cases of thoracic aneurism under his care. The treatment employed in the majority of the cases reported was a combination of the iodine of potassium with antipyrin. In twelve out of seventeen cases treated after the manner described there was a considerable reduction in the size of the tumor, and a disappearance of the painful and distressing symptoms so frequently present in cases of thoracic aneurism. It is claimed for the antipyrin that it greatly assists the action of the iodide of potassium—that it calms the circulation and therefore tends to promote coagulation in the sac. Our knowledge of the action of antipyrin on the circulation is as yet in a very imperfect state, and from what we do know it is doubtful whether the claims advanced for this agent by Sée are likely true. Antipyrin has no doubt an influence, when given in full doses, of increasing the blood pressure. This action, instead of promoting, would certainly retard the coagulation of the blood in the sac. No doubt good indirectly will follow the use of antipyrin in relieving pain, but it may be a two-edged weapon, and until our knowledge of its action is more precise, its administration in aortic aneurism should be very carefully watched.

It appears to us to be more clearly proved that the action of the iodide of potassium in aneurism is brought about by its lowering influence on the blood pressure, and to combine it with a drug (antipyrin) which increases the pressure is very empirical work. Sée points out the great advantages of the potassium